

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining a pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, ~~such method implemented in a computer system having at least one database comprising data defining entities as connection points, the method~~ comprising:

providing a computer system having at least one database comprising data defining entities as connection points;

~~A.~~ defining the source connection point as a list of contacts;

~~B.~~ defining the target connection point; and

~~C.~~ defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

2. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and entities, wherein for each individual or entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or entity;

defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or entity; and

generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or entity includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or entity or of an individual or entity from the endpoint.

3. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals, entities or both.

4. (New) The method of claim 2 further comprising providing a user interface configured for entry of at least one of the starting point or endpoint.

5. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the individual or entity.

6. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein providing at least one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or public domain source including data representing individuals, entities or both.

7. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein deriving information comprises parsing information from at least one private or public domain source.

8. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one private or public domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

9. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to generating, defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals, entities or both to comprise the at least one pathway.

10. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising: for the at least one pathway, displaying the starting point, the one or more intermediate individuals, entities or both and the at least one endpoint.

11. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for determining at least one pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, said instructions when executed by a computer causes a processor to perform operations comprising:

defining the source connection point as a list of contacts;

defining the target connection point; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

12. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:

accessing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and entities, wherein for each individual or entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or entity; defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or entity; and

generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or entity includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or entity or of an individual or entity from the endpoint.

13. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:

providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and entities, wherein for each individual or entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or entity;

defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or entity; and generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or entity includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or entity or of an individual or entity from the endpoint.

14. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein at least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals, entities or both.

15. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 further comprising providing a user interface configured for entry of at least one of the starting point or endpoint.

16. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the individual or entity.

17. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein providing at least

one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or public domain source including data representing individuals, entities or both.

18. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein deriving information comprises parsing information from at least one private or public domain source.

19. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein the at least one private or public domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

20. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising, prior to generating, defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals, entities or both to comprise the at least one pathway.